THE PARK AVENUE SYNAGOGUE

Bulletin

November 25, 1946 KISLEV 2, 5707

Bertha Hamerman Delegate to World Zionist Congress

Mrs. Joseph Hamerman, a prominent member of the Park Avenue Synagogue Sisterhood, and a member of the Adult Education Committee of the Congregation, has been selected as one of the delegates to the World Zionist Congress. The meetings of the Congress are scheduled to begin on December 9 at Basle, Switzerland. Mrs. Hamerman's work in Sisterhood has always been an integral part of her activity and interest in the entire Jewish scene.

Mrs. Hamerman is President of the Lower New York Region of Hadassah, comprising fifty-eight chapters, and is one of the most active leaders in Hadassah and Zionism. A member since 1928, she has held the position of President of the New York Chapter for four years, coming to that position from the Presidency of the Stuyvesant Group and Fund Raising Chairman for New York Chapter.

A graduate of the New York University Law School, Mrs. Hamerman is also employing her executive talent and experience to further the work of civic organizations such as the Council for Community Action, Friends of Democracy, and the League for Women Voters.

Because of her sixteen years of Zionist effort and her unshakable conviction that Zionism is intimately related to the whole worldwide struggle for democracy, Mrs. Hamerman is unusually well qualified to represent American Jewish women at this most important Zionist Congress.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

SABBATH EVE

Friday, Nov. 29th, 8:30 o'clock

Rabbi Steinberg will preach on "Should There Be A Jewish University—What Kind?"

SABBATH MORNING

Saturday, Nov. 30th, 10:00 a.m.

Junior Congregation Service at 10:30 a.m.

Dr. David Petegorsky

Joint Thanksgiving Service at S. A. J.

The annual Thanksgiving Day Service, held jointly by the Park Avenue Synagogue and the Society for the Advancement of Judaism, this year will take place on Thursday, November 28, at 10:30 a.m: in the S.A.J. auditorium, 15 West 86th Street. Rabbi Ira Eisenstein, leader of the S.A.J., will preside at the service; and the Thanksgiving message is to be delivered by Rabbi Morris N. Kertzer. All members of the Synagogue are urged to attend and join in prayers of thanksgiving.

Junior Congregation Inaugurates Officers

The Junior Congregation recently inaugurated its new officers: Jonathan Steinberg, President; Barbara Grad, Vice-president; Sheldon Polsky and David Steinberg, Gabai-im (Ushers). During November a "Prayer for America" Contest has been in progress, the winning prayer to be included in the Sabbath services. Preparations are also under way for a gala Hanukkah party for the members of the Junior Congregation.

Services are held each Saturday morning and a Kiddush is a featured part of it.

Petegorsky Speaks To Congregation

Dr. David Petegorsky, Executive Director of the American Jewish Congress, inaugurated the Adult Education Committee's series on "Current Battlefronts of Democracy" with his talk on "Freedom and A Planned Society" at the Friday evening services on November 22nd. Mr. Petegorsky, an able political scientist and economist, delivered a provocative lecture on the economic basis of democracy, following his introduction by Rabbi Steinberg.

The speaker was trained under Harold Laski at the London School of Economics, from which he received his doctorate. He served as Deputy Director of Information for the Canadian Government during the war, and is author of "Strategy for Democracy" a well-received critique of the democratic social and political structure.

As the first in the monthly series of lectures sponsored by the Committee, this was one of widespread appeal, attended by a large audience.

PUTTERMAN BROADCASTS

Cantor David J. Putterman has resumed his place as the vocal soloist on the weekly programs of the Eternal Light, sponsored by the Jewish Theological Seminary each Sunday at 12:30 p.m. on station WNBC.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

SABBATH EVE

Friday, Dec. 6th, 8:30 o'clock

Rabbi Kertzer will preach on "'Thieves in the Night': Koestler's Portrayal of the 'New' Jew."

Saturday, Dec. 7th, 10:00 a.m.

Junior Congregation Service at 10:30 a.m.

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VOL. I No. 6

From the Desk of Rabbi Steinberg

Of the great works of world literature, many, including some of the very greatest, require a commentary for intelligent, profitable and pleasurable reading.

The Bible is such a book. While much of it is not only immediately understandable, but simplicity itself—the Ten Commandments, for example, or the Twenty-third Psalm, or the story of Joseph—many a passage is all but unintelligible unless interpreted, unless its historical background is filled in, its obscure phrases and allusions explained, its relation to its context indicated, and its major point clarified. It is because readers venture into Scripture alone and unguided that they so often emerge baffled instead of edified, irritated rather than inspired. For, if they have not lost themselves altogether in one of the darker stretches, they are quite likely to have been dizzied by the alternation of lucidity and obscurity, as blinding for the mind as is the constant blinking on and off of a light for the eyes.

For those who desire a "scholarly" introduction to the Bible, one which incorporates the accumulated findings of Higher Criticism, archaeology, comparative religion, and related sciences and yet preserves reverence for the book and its message. I should like to recommend, as a first choice, Fleming James' *Personalities of the Old Testament* and, as a second, Julius Bewer's *Literature of the Old Testament.*

But for those who are not interested in what the ancient rabbis used to call *parpraoth l'hahmah,* "side dishes to wisdom", who want to read the book itself with immediate understanding, I am happy to recommend, and that most enthusiastically, a new volume issued by the Jewish Publication Society, *Pathways Through the Bible* by Dr. Mortimer J. Cohen, and illustrated by Arthur Szyk.

Dr. Cohen has excerpted from the entire Bible its most significant passages and supplied them with introductions and captions, simple and unobtrusive but sufficient to make the text readily and meaningfully readable. The result is a book for scholars and laymen, for old and young alike.

Mr. Szyk's illustrations, done in his distinctive and inimitable style, are very beautiful. That they are a work of piety and love would be self-evident even without the artist's *Dedication,* a statement so tragic and moving that I cannot refrain from quoting from it:

"In March 1943," writes Mr. Szyk, "my beloved seventy-year-old mother, Eugenia Szyk, was taken from the ghetto of Lodz to the Nazi furnaces of Maidanek. With her, voluntarily went her faithful servant, the good Christian, Josefa, a Polish peasant. . . . In memory of the two noble martyrs I dedicate my pictures of the Bible as an eternal Kaddish for these great souls."

By their joint labors, Dr. Cohen and Mr. Szyk have rendered a great service to American Jewry. They have cleared and made smooth a way to the Book of books. Unless there has been extinguished in us the last spark of intellectual curiosity, spiritual adventuresomeness, thirst for greatness and hunger for goodness, we shall want to travel that way to the shrine at its end.

MILTON STEINBERG.

Bar Mitzvah

Roger Herz, son of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Herz, on December 7th.

Anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. David Lotwin celebrated their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary on November 16th.

Marriages

Claire, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward C. Weinrib to Mr. Norman Lipman, on November 3rd.

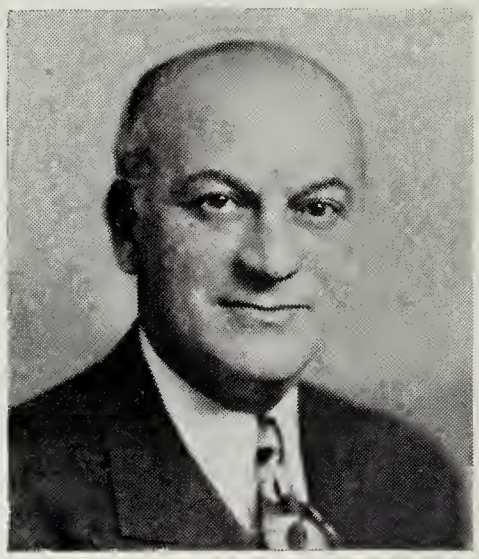
C. Robert Lemle, son of Mr. and Mrs. Julius Lemle to Miss Peggy Eckstein, on November 10th.

Births

To Mr. and Mrs. Jack W. Gaines (nee Norma Haft), a son, Michael John, on November 1st.

Death

Mr. Max Gross, bother-in-law of Mrs. Bella Rose and Mrs. Ida Daub.



Milton Weill

JWB Names Weill, Levin To Posts

Two of the members of the Synagogue have recently been appointed to executive positions on both the National Jewish Welfare Board, and its Metropolitan section.

Milton Weill, Vice-Chairman of the Board of Trustees, has been appointed chairman of the Army and Navy committee of the National Jewish Welfare Board. He had previously been chairman of the Board's public relations committee and associate chairman of its advisory committee on war records.

In addition to the above mentioned positions, Mr. Weill is vice-president of the Ninety-Second Street Y.M.H.A., a member of the executive committee of the American Jewish Committee, a member of the Jewish Welfare Board's executive committee, chairman of the trades organization of the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies and also chairman of the trades organization of the Joint Defense Appeal and United Jewish Appeal.

Harold H. Levin, Chairman of the Committee on Adult Education, has been elected third vice-president of the Metropolitan section of the National Jewish Welfare Board. He is also Metropolitan section representative to the Jewish Center Division Committee of the National Jewish Welfare Board.

School Attends Play

The entire Religious School viewed a performance of "The Cave of the King," a biblical pageant sponsored and directed by the Jewish Education Committee, at the Heckscher Theatre on Sunday morning, November 24th.

School Highlights
by Alma D. Kaplan

Taking a cue from the hospitals, the School Library offers books to the children from rolling carts which travel from room to room. Incidentally, whenever you wonder what to give as gifts please think of books of Jewish interest and call Mrs. Seymour Wimpfheimer, who is Chairman of the Library Committee of the Parents' Association. The School Library gets the legal dealer's profit through a special arrangement. Thus, our Library will be able to buy additional volumes at a wholesale price.

Attention: Boy Scouts

It has long been hoped that our children who are Boy and Girl Scouts might have Synagogue troops to belong to. Now, at last, Mr. A. Cowan, who is an official of the Boy Scouts of America and one of our active members, is taking steps to form a Boy Scout Troop here, for boys 12 and over, as a starter. For further information please contact Rabbi Kertzer who is answering all inquiries.

First Parents' Association Meeting

On November 6th, the Parents' Association held its first meeting of the season, at which Mrs. Howe, the President, welcomed a promising turnout of members. First on the program was a Community Sing under Cantor Putterman's direction, with the school pianist, Miss Marcia Tobin, accompanying.

Mrs. Wimpfheimer, Chairman of Membership, reported a total paid-up roster of 67 families and expressed the hope that all families with children enrolled in the School will sign up promptly. The Parents' Association is affiliated with the United Parents' Association of Jewish Religious Schools.

The business session of the meeting was followed by an address by Rabbi Kertzer, entitled: "What Makes Your Sammy Run", in which Sammy was compared to an alarm clock, taken apart, put together again, ticking along now but with a few parts mysteriously left over which we do not understand. Rabbi Kertzer sought to define these hard-to-understand factors in the child's make-up as: Environment, Natural Rebellion, Individual Will. He pointed out how little the parent can do in each of these domains, and how important are example, faith, patience in helping Jewish children face life proudly and courageously.

Religious School Pupils Form Keren Ami Council

The Park Avenue Synagogue Religious School has one of the twelve existing groups in the entire country for experimental programs sponsored by the Jewish Education Committee on Keren Ami. The purpose of the group is to raise funds, to teach children at their own level the structure of Jewish Community life and to also encourage participation in community life.

They have set-up three different committees to guide them in their work, an Allocations Committee, Research Bureau, and Speakers Bureau. They favor having the Jewish young people aware of all minority problems. The solution of race relations in terms of better educational facilities for Negroes, is one of their many themes. The Keren Ami Council has already donated $25 to the Jewish Theological Seminary and $10 to the United Negro College Fund.

There has been an increased interest in Keren Ami and the work they have been doing is very admirable. The officers of the Council are: Paul Seligson, President; Eleanor Wechsler, Vice-president; Nina Solomon, Secretary; and Judith Kaplan, Treasurer.

Acknowledging that the parent has access to only about 10 per cent of his child's environment, Rabbi Kertzer urged that we make that 10 per cent count Jewishly, instilling within the child a dignified awareness of the worth of his minority group. The meeting concluded with a social hour, presided over by Mrs. I. E. Gevirtz, Chairman of Hospitality.

Club Program Progresses

All seven of the School clubs are in full activity. Some of the clubs, particularly the younger ones, have shown a marked interest in dramatics and have been doing creative self-expression along these lines. The clubs are now undertaking preliminary preparations for the celebration of the coming holiday of Hanukkah.

There is still some room left for new members to join their activities. Boys of ten and eleven are invited to join a new group that meets Wednesday afternoons at 4 p.m. Parents and children interested in further information should communicate directly with Mr. Schanin.

Sisterhood Speaks
by Dorothy Cross

The Sisterhood Membership Tea went off to a good start on the afternoon of November 12th at the home of Mrs. Saul Schwamm. The goal of the Committee on Membership is that every woman member of Synagogue join Sisterhood. Those interested should contact Mrs. Milton Heller, Chairman, 57 East 88th Street.

The Sisterhood announces with pride that one of its members, Mrs. Joseph Hamerman, President of Lower New York State Region of Hadassah, will leave shortly as a delegate to the World Zionist Congress to be held at Basle, Switzerland on December 9th. This is the organization's first meeting since the war.

In accordance with the Sisterhood plan of inviting outstanding people in various fields at our monthly meetings, our guests at the last meeting were Mrs. Isaac Gilman, President of Federation of Jewish Women's Organizations; Mrs. Oscar Lazarus, 1946 Chairman of Anti-Defamation League and other members of their Boards.

Watch for the next issue of the BULLETIN when the details of the Hanukkah Party will be announced. The dramatization of an Eternal Light Program will take place on this festival celebration.

The next meeting of the Sisterhood will be held on Tuesday afternoon, November twenty-sixth at 1:30 in the Synagogue vestry. Dr. John Slawson, Executive Vice-President of the American Jewish Committee, will cover the second aspect of the series on the Jewish community in his talk on "Jewish Self Defense".

Symposium Planned

A symposium is being planned for the Friday evening service on December 27th. College youth will be home for the mid-winter recess and the service is being arranged for their participation. The general topic of the symposium will be "Jewish Youth in the College Community". A panel of four young people now attending college will be invited to participate, and each will be asked to speak on a specific aspect of the general subject. Further details and the names of the participants in the discussion will appear in a forthcoming issue of the BULLETIN.

Sisterhood Participates In Interfaith Program

"Standing By the Youth of Our Community", an all-day Institute sponsored by "Religion at Work in the Community" at the Riverside Church, was held on Thursday, November 7th. The group, organized by women active in Catholic, Protestant, and Jewish religious and communal organizations, has been attempting to attack the problems of interracial and interfaith relations at the youth level. Representing the Sisterhood of the Park Avenue Synagogue were Mrs. D. Leonard Cohen, Mrs. Ezra Cohen, Mrs. Saul Godwin, Mrs. George Howe, and Mrs. Edward Peiper.

The chairman of the all-day conference was Dr. Harry J. Carman, Dean of Columbia College and a member of the Board of Higher Education of the city. Other speakers were Judge Justice Wise Polier, of the Domestic Relations Court; Miss Rhoda McCulloch, of the National YWCA. Dr. Carman stated his firm belief that interfaith and interracial activity could be successful both on a large and a small scale. He indicated that the usual response of children in a situation of this nature is one of acceptance and friendship. Adult's fear of intermarriage is overrated and unreal. Parents must make a forthright effort to teach their children the urgency of belief in equality in practical, everyday relationships.

A youth panel specially selected for the day's discussion, participated in all sessions. The young people who had been invited to speak were: Miss Jean Campbell, of Hunter College, chairman; Norton Garfinkel, a high school student; Burton Kossoff, an ex-G.I.; Miss Jennie Lee, a Hawaiian student now pursuing advanced work here in New York; Teresa Burke, president of the Newman Club at Hunter College; and Mr. Dudley DeC. Cobham, a student at the Union Theological Seminary.

Will You Attend?

Monday, Nov. 25th, 8 p.m.—Third Session of the Adult Education Courses. Rabbi Kertzer will lecture on "The Intellectual Tradition in Judaism."

Tuesday, Nov. 26th, 1:30 p.m.—Sisterhood Open Meeting. Dr. John Slawson, guest speaker.

Sunday, Dec. 1st, 8:15 p.m.—Junior League meeting for members only.

Monday, Dec. 2nd, 8 p.m.—Fourth Session of the Adult Education Courses. Rabbi Kertzer will lecture on "The Mystic Strain in Judaism."

Monday, Dec. 2nd, 10:00 p.m.—Adult Education Committee Meeting.

Rabbi Kertzer's Prayers on NBC

A few weeks ago Rabbi Kertzer recorded four prayers for the National Broadcasting Company to be used at the beginning of the day and at the close of the evening programs. These prayers will be heard on the mornings of December 3rd and December 5th, and also at the time of "sign-off" on the same evenings.

Of interest to our Synagogue is a program sponsored by Port Washington Long Island Hadassah on Sunday evening, December 1st. Rabbi Kertzer will give a lecture on "Recent Proposals For Palestine" and Mrs. Marjorie Hess, noted vocalist and member of the Synagogue, will present a musical program.

Collegiates Dance

The first dance of the newly-formed Collegiate group will take place in the Synagogue vestry on Sunday afternoon, December 1st at 3 o'clock. The nominal admission charge of fifty cents will include dance music, refreshments, and a most enjoyable afternoon to all young men and women between the ages of 17 and 22. The dance is sponsored by the steering committee of which Alan Davidson is chairman. The other members of this committee are: Dolores Cohen, Sandy Cowan, Edward Davidson, Sanford Hahn, and Carol Westheimer.

The group had a meeting at the Synagogue on Sunday evening, November 17th. The recently elected officers of the group are: George Osserman, president; Carol Westheimer, secretary; and Sandy Cowan, acting treasurer.

THE PARK AVENUE SYNAGOGUE

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Our Synagogue Has Opportunity to Buy Cemetery Tract

A prompt response has been asked of all members of the Synagogue to the letter which the Board of Trustees recently sent out announcing the possibility of acquiring a favorable cemetery tract for the Synagogue. Before the Synagogue takes up its option it would like to know which members would be interested in acquiring plots or single graves, and it is important that everyone who has received the letter respond as speedily as possible. Full information is contained in the letter which follows:

"The Park Avenue Synagogue has secured a short term option to purchase a large tract of ground in an established, beautifully landscaped, well managed and nearby cemetery in the Mt. Hope section of Westchester County. We are considering the acquisition of these additional cemetery facilities in order to supplement our present limited space, which is proving inadequate for the needs and demands of our members and their families.

Before we take any further steps to acquire this tract, we must ascertain how many members are interested in purchasing plots or graves, and if so, to what extent. We anticipate that plots will average about $100 to $125 a grave, and that single graves will approximate about $150 a piece.

It is our intention, if we purchase these grounds, to sell these plots and graves thereafter at higher prices; but those who purchase now, as a result of this letter, will be given the benefit of the prices listed above.

To act intelligently upon the option, the information we require must be compiled as speedily as possible. If you are interested, will you cooperate by filling out and returning the enclosed card at once. Our office will then furnish you with complete details."

New Midtown Youth Council Formed

Mr. Dudley Greenstein and Miss Jo Levy represented the Junior League at a meeting held at the Society For The Advancement Of Judaism on Thursday, November 21st, to organize a Jewish Youth Council for midtown of Manhattan. At least ten synagogues are joining in the new organization and plans are being made for joint cultural and social programs.